February 20, 2014

Last week’s Emerging Issues Forum, *Teachers and the Great Economic Debate*, brought together more than 1,300 educators, business leaders and policy makers to explore how to recruit, develop and keep the best teachers in North Carolina’s classrooms.

Day One of the Forum showcased thought-provoking speakers including Amanda Ripley, author of “The Smartest Kids in the World – And How They Got that Way”, Dr. Pasi Sahlberg, former director general of the Centre for International Mobility and Cooperation in Helsinki, Finland and best-selling author, Dan Pink.

Forum attendees and the more than 2,800 online participants were engaged in polling questions and solution sessions aimed to develop priorities for action regarding compensation, standards, professional development, and elevating the teaching status.

Tuesday morning brought inspiration to the crowd, including more than 170 K-12 educators serving as Belk Foundation Teacher Ambassadors. One of the highlights of the two-day event was the Town Hall, moderated by *PBS NewsHour’s* John Merrow, with six teachers who have left or are leaving North Carolina classrooms.

**Featured Educator**

This month’s IEI Featured Educator is Maria Eby, a first grade teacher at Charles R. Bugg Creative Arts and Science A+ Magnet Elementary in Wake County. Recently nominated for Magnet School Teacher of the Year, Eby was featured in a blog and video by LearningMatters President, John Merrow. Watch her video [here](#).

**Featured Action**

Feeling inspired after the 2014 Emerging Issues Forum? Ready to take what you hear at the Forum and bring action to your school, community or district? Join the World-Class Teaching MOOC-Ed. Beginning March 10, this course is designed for educators and professionals who
Enlightening, and, at times, heartbreaking, the panelists shared their stories. Sharon Boxley, who left a teaching job in North Carolina to enter the classroom in Maryland said, “I decided I needed to be paid my worth, and North Carolina couldn't do that.”

The 29th Annual Emerging Issues Forum wrapped up Tuesday afternoon with North Carolina Teaching Fellow and 2000 Disney National Teacher of the Year Ron Clark sharing his inspiring story of the far-reaching influence of a world-class teacher. His contagious energy left attendees asking what they can do to move North Carolina forward.

We have the answer!

On March 10, the Institute for Emerging Issues, in partnership with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, will launch the World Class Teaching (WCT) MOOC-Ed. Designed for educators and professionals who want to learn and share strategies and build capacity for ground-level community action, the WCT MOOC-Ed is your opportunity to take action on the great ideas, strategies and opportunities that came out of this year’s Forum.

Governor Hunt said it best in closing, “We can do a lot of great things if we work at it. And I want you to work at it. We need to hear your voice.” Share your voice and work toward a world-class teacher in every classroom in North Carolina.

Join the MOOCment. Click here to register today.

Prize for Innovation Winners

Day 1 of the 2014 Emerging Issues saw the announcement of the Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation winners - Havelock High School and their Handy Educational Learning Program (HELP). To learn more about their great idea, click here.
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Do you know a teacher who is working hard to help students succeed? Let us know, and s/he could be featured in the next education issue!